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R. J. Edith
12/03/03
PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. 09/615,777 Confirmation No.: 3971
Applicant(s): SATOH, Hideaki, et al.
Filed: July 13, 2000
TC/A.U. 2731
Examiner: Andrew Waxman
Title: Multiplex Communication Method, the Device and the System Thereof

Docket No.: 032405.034
Customer No.: 25461

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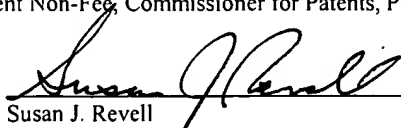
AMENDMENT

In response to the Official Action of October 22, 2003, applicants elect the subject matter of Claim 11, identified by the Examiner in the Official Action as Group IV, classified in Class 370 Subclass 350. The election is made with traverse and reconsideration is requested of the requirement for restriction. Applicants request that Claims 12 and 13, which are dependent upon Claim 11, be classified with the subject matter of Group IV.

Claim 11 is directed to a multiplex communication method including the steps of obtaining clock information by a node having said data transmission right and adding the obtained clock information to a data to be transmitted. Claim 12 calls for selecting each of the

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Susan J. Revell

App. No. 09/615,777
Amdt. dated Nov. 19, 2003
Resp. to Office Action of Oct. 22, 2003

first mode of transmitting by adding clock information or a second mode of not adding clock information and, therefore, is closely and intimately related with the subject matter of Claim 11.

Similarly, Claim 13 calls for, among other steps, transmitting data including the clock information by the clock master and receiving clock information within the data transmitted from the clock master. Thus, Claims 12 and 13 refer to the matter of clock information and the matter of node which is also closely related and not independent from subject matter of Claim 11.

It is believed that examination of Claims 11, 12 and 13 will not place an undue burden on the Examiner.

Examination on the merits is awaited.

Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter.

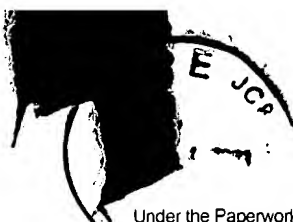
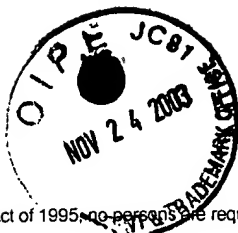
Respectfully submitted,

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12/03/03**TRANSMITTAL
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(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Application Number | 09/615,777 |
| Filing Date | 07/13/2000 |
| First Named Inventor | SATOH, Hideaki et al. |
| Art Unit | 2731 |
| Examiner Name | Andrew Waxman |
| Attorney Docket Number | 032405.034 |

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)☐ Fee Transmittal Form☐ Fee Attached☒ Amendment / Response☐ After Final☐ Affidavits/declaration(s)☐ Extension of Time Request☐ Express Abandonment Request☐ Information Disclosure Statement☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)☐ Response to Missing Parts/
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1.52 or 1.53☐ Assignment Papers
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